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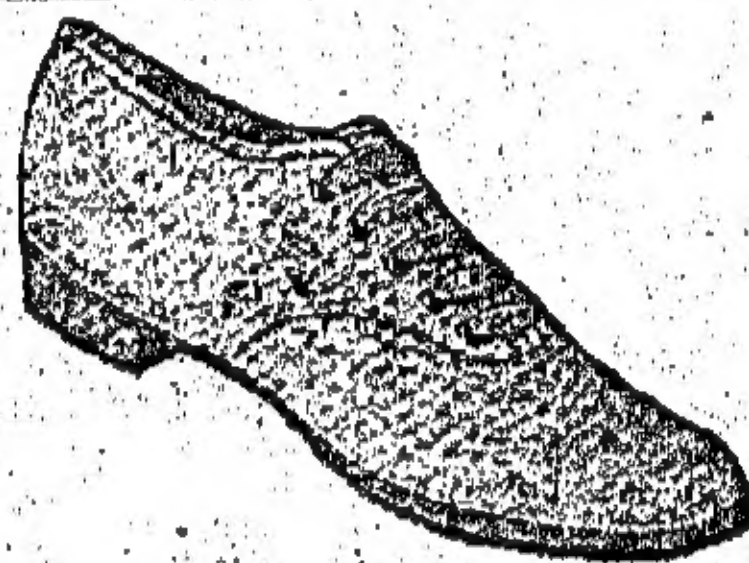
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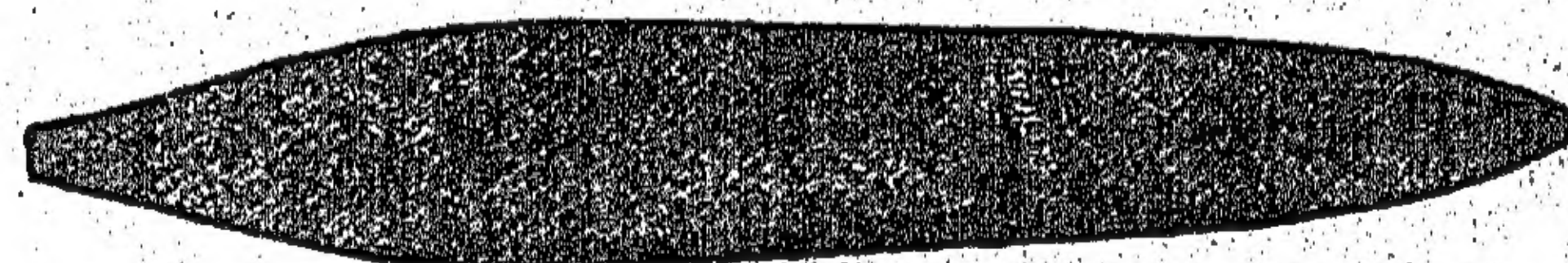
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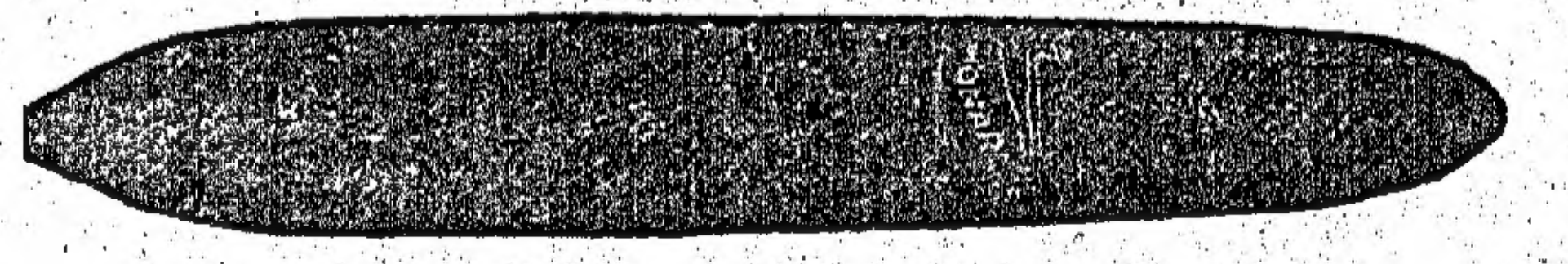
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[1331]

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[3218]

## PERSONALITIES IN POWER.

WAR'S INFLUENCE ON THE BUBBLE REPUTATION.

[BY CIVILIAN.]

The events of last week point the moral of the mutability of all reputations "in these hard later days that trouble us." The name of General Maurice blazes across the heavens like a rocket and comes down like the stick. He pays for forty-eight hours of fame by the certainty that he will never again have to decide whether he is General or Citizen Maurice. His fate will act as an "awful warning" to certain Army and Navy luminaries who have allowed their orbit to be deflected into the perilous paths of political intrigue.

War is a hard schoolmaster. In the good old days, we have nearly forgotten, men built up their fame by slow and sure degrees. Portents like Randolph Churchill and Parnell indeed astonished the world alike by the rapidity of their rise and the sudden crash of their fall. But the common order was that of Disraeli or Gladstone, Roberts or Wolseley, familiar figures long before they reached the acme of fame. Almerion was for a generation a steady Cabinet hack before in old age he blossomed into popularity and Premiership. And now we have Sir Eric Geddes as First Lord, a man three years ago utterly unknown to the general public. Verily the old order changes.

IN THE MACHINE.

Just as this war is, unlike any other we have fought, so the conditions of personal fame to-day are radically altered. It is not only that the bubble of reputation swells and bursts with unprecedented speed, but so secret and overwhelming is the mechanism of modern war that it is hard to make a popular hit at all. Look at our Army leaders, men commanding forces far vaster than those of Wellington at Waterloo or Roberts in the march on Bloemfontein. If Byng, Plumer, Monro, Rawlinson, or Gough walked down a London street no one would turn his head to look at them. French, Haig, Jellicoe, and Beatty might be recognised or they might not be. Yet Roberts and Kitchener were as familiar to Londoners as the lions in Trafalgar square. As to the commanders of any corps, men holding power of the life and death over 60,000 soldiers, we do not even know their names, much less their faces; and beyond these there are minor generals like the sands of the sea in number.

At the front it is just the same. One's brigadier is known, and the divisional general if he is a good one. I never saw my army corps commander, and should not remember his name if it did not happen to be Plumer; as to G.H.Q., it was as unknown to us as the hierarchy of heaven. The machine is so complex, it simply swallows the man. Gone are the days when Wellington's long nose struck terror to marauding or careless soldiery in the Peninsula, when Roberts rode along his tattered line from Kabul to Kandahar, or Wolseley was the idol of the Army in Egypt. The grey coat and cocked hat of the Little Corporal are but faded emblems on the walls of military glory, and no Caesar dashes bareheaded into the fray to rally his disordered legions as on "that day he overcame the Nervii."

"WHO NEXT?"

Science has begun the mastery of its maker, and personality is strangling itself in its own telephone wires. Soldiers obey, follow, and perhaps love, each their immediate superiors, and far away to them is that bodiless and soulless entity which sends down the orders on the wires. If a high commander is sent home the graceless subaltern merely murmurs: "And who next?" This is not lack of confidence in generals; it is lack of interest in the man, one never sees. There can be no popular hero for our soldiers, for the conditions do not allow of it. Maude in Mesopotamia, the Sir John Moore of our time, came nearer to it than any. But in the main the general becomes an invisible calculating machine. To be more he must have genius, and no genius has gladdened our eyes.

With the statesman and politician the case is somewhat different. War alters values, but something of the old tests remains. It is still an advantage to be able to defend one's policy in language understood of the people. Now, alas, war is a Pharaoh who knows not Joseph unless Joseph prove himself capable. Work in the silent and diligent obscurity of a department becomes more vital than brilliancy in the glare and clatter of the platform. In the long run such work tells on fame: hence the rise of Milner, rejected of Asquith for years of war, to great pre-eminence in the State.

It is a far cry back to July, 1914, and names then so familiar. Morley, Birrell, and Burns have vanished.

And even their grey ghosts pale and less, and the lords that fell at Lyonesse. And the king that comes no more.

Where are all the reputations of that age? Lord Lansdowne, staggered before a motley and exiguous host, bearing the strange banner "Peace by negotiation." Lord Curzon has become a contented member of a Council, in which he is not supreme. Others have defied the rule of paradox and remained true to type. Churchill in his reputation for an erratic brilliance which places him one year at the bottom and the next at the top of the wheel, and Bonar Law in the gradual recognition by the public of those qualities of steadiness, loyalty, and judgment his intimates knew him to possess.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

## COMPANY REPORT

SHANGHAI ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

The report and statement of accounts of the Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ltd., for the year ended December 31st, 1917, show a profit of £27,504 5s. 6d., which compares with £49,123 0s. 4d. for 1916. Including £2,500 17s. 5d. brought forward from the preceding year, the total standing to the credit of profit and loss account, before making any appropriations, was £70,014 2s. 11d. There had been transferred: to reserve for renewals account £10,000; to the preliminary expenses account £5,000, and an interim dividend of 5 per cent. had been paid (£10,000), leaving a disposable balance of £39,014 2s. 11d. The directors recommended the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax), £16,000, making 10 per cent. for the year and a bonus of 2½ per cent. (free of income-tax), £8,000, leaving to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty £15,014 2s. 11d.

Commenting upon the proposal of the London directors to increase their fees from £1,000 a year to £2,200, the *North China Daily News* says:—"It is difficult to see what the London Directors have to do to earn even £1,500 a year, as also to understand the need of a London office costing over £700. The whole working of the Company takes place in Shanghai, all its money is made here, all its management is directed—and whatever occasional criticisms may be passed, well directed—in Shanghai. In fact no company could well be imagined which appears to stand in less need of London directors. A good firm of buying agents at a retaining fee, and a commission on material purchased would seem to satisfy every need. This question of London directors of companies whose business and policy are wholly done and controlled in Shanghai is not confined to the Tramway Co. It is an anachronism which is hardly likely to be permitted for much longer and we should not be surprised if this additional demand of the Tramway Co.'s London Board hastened its eclipse."

## HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 6th July is as follows:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate receipts for 27 weeks.
This Year.....	\$14,374	\$362,607
Last Year.....	16,078	360,727
Decrease.....	1,704	1,880

## GERMANS FORCING MORE MARRIAGES.

The German commission appointed to examine the decline in the birth rate in Germany has reported a recommendation for the compulsory marriage of Germans before their twentieth year is passed, according to a despatch to the *Dutch Press* from Amsterdam. Financial assistance would be granted by the State, according to this plan, which provides penalties for those failing to comply. Provision is also made for the punishment of married couples who remain childless.

## MEDIOCRITIES OF PEACE.

Mr. Asquith has shown that the ablest of Prime Ministers in peace can be the greatest of failures in war, and the qualities for quiet times are unavailing "when the blast of the terrible ones is against the wall." Left to himself, he might have recognised the fact, and lapsed into a dignified repose shot with flashes of sage advice. But he never has been so left. Messrs. McKenna, Runciman, and Samuel, those competent mediocrities of peace are the lineal descendants of the old Whigs. They cannot believe that England can exist so long as they are out of office. The cataclysm of the war has not had the slightest effect on the smug plausibilities which are their views; they merely resent it as a disturbance to their careers. So Mr. Asquith must be their unwilling Moses to lead them back to the promised land.

As a result, he has been taken in by a silly tale which would not have imposed on the editor of a sensational weekly, ruined his reputation for patriotism and calm intelligence, and given to his quondam colleague, the greatest parliamentary triumph of the age.

From the second in command and darling of a party Mr. Lloyd George has risen to control the State. His amazing vitality, contempt of precedent, and quick decision make him the man for sudden crises and unforeseen events. These are fit qualities for a war which gives men little to face but the unexpected. Like the late Joseph Chamberlain, he is never so dangerous as when put in a corner. Left alone, he seems to be weakened, but when the attack comes it is met with a sudden and terrible counter-stroke.

Billow upon billow of crises roll down on him, but when they have broken with a crash there he is still like a cork on the top of the wave. For all his minor defects, he has the confidence of the country, because it believes that he has both the will and the power to win. All is not over yet, and few characters are more dissimilar than those of the Minister who fought Napoleon and the Premier who faced the Kaiser; but he may yet go down to posterity as the other Pilot who weathered the storm.

## ALLEGED FORGERY OF PASSPORTS.

ARRESTS IN TIENTSIN AND HARBIN.

At the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on July 3rd, before Mr. Grant Jones, British Assessor, and Magistrate Tsang, F. J. Straus, described as a German, living at No. 25, Carter Road, was charged with failing to register as an alien enemy and also with forging passports contrary to article 243 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code.

An official of the Russian Consulate in Shanghai said his consulate had received certain instructions from Harbin with regard to the defendant by telegraph. It was alleged that a certain offence had been committed by the defendant with regard to passports.

Mr. K. S. Newman asked the Court that defendant should be bound over to come before the Court when certain war raids, which had been applied for, had been executed in Tientsin and Harbin. The men had been arrested there and it was simply a question of getting them down here. He was not prepared to go on because these men had not arrived in Shanghai. The police would have no objection to bail being allowed.

The Assessor—This is a very serious charge in time of war, and in other places the man would be put up against a wall and shot.

Mr. Newman—Until we get further information from Tientsin and Harbin I don't think we should be justified in asking that the defendant be kept in custody. Although the accused was probably sheltering others and knew a great deal about the subject of the charge, he was not satisfied that accused participated in the matter. If the defendant disclosed what he knew so much the better for him. The Assessor—I am aware of that, though not a participant himself, he is aware of facts which it was his duty to disclose, we shall have to hand him over to the Chinese authorities for internment. We cannot let men like that wander about.

The defendant said he was a Swiss subject, though registered as a German at the German Consulate. He had at his home a certificate to that effect. He denied having anything to do with forging passports, and asked the Court to dismiss the charge against him.

In answer to the Court, Mr. Newman thought there was not much danger of the defendant getting away if he were released on bail and suggested that he should also be ordered to report himself once every 24 hours.

The Assessor, in remanding the defendant for a fortnight in \$5,000 bail and the charge of forging passports in time of war was not a case in which a small security could be demanded.

## COTTON AND YARN MARKET.

Messrs. Polihwall & Kothwall, cotton and yarn brokers, of Hongkong, in their report dated July 9th, state:—

Since our last report on the 4th ult. per stir. *Quina* our yarn market has kept in the same steady tone during the whole of the interval, and though the transactions have been on a limited scale, the prices have remained firm owing to foreign holders showing no inclination to operate on account of higher prices ruling in India.

Inquiry in 10s yarn still continues and business has been done in about 6,500 bales.

At the close our market is showing a firm tone.

Total sales, 6,500 bales; bargains in Chinese hands 12,000 bales.

Arrivals.—The mail str. *Dunera* and extra str. *Siam Mara*, from Bombay, have brought 6,000 bales for Hongkong and 2,400 for Shanghai.

Shanghai. The long unsettled political situation in China has greatly affected the market, which has remained so much depressed that several lots have been re-shipped from Shanghai and sold in our market, while, in the absence of inquiry, stocks there are accumulating. Latest advice shows no demand at slightly improved rates.

Japanese Yarn has been in moderate demand, and, with continued fluctuations in prices, a fair amount of business has passed as under:—1,000 bales Nagasaki, No. 20s at \$238 to \$239; 600 bales 3 Horses, No. 10s at \$219 to \$221; 3 Horses, No. 20s at \$240; 2,000 bales Yellow Jess, No. 20s at \$218 to \$222; 100 bales Seta, No. 10s at \$210; Seta, No. 20s at \$240; Blue Fish, No. 20s at \$240.

The growing demand for cotton piece-goods in various foreign countries has turned the attention of Japanese mills to produce more piece goods; hence the output of Japanese yarn has been much curtailed, which has tended to an advance in prices to the extent of 2s to 3s.

Raw Cotton.—There is no stock of Bengal or Chinese. Quotations:—Bengal, \$42 to \$47 per picul; Chinese, \$45 to \$53 per picul.

## THE ARETHUSA TRAINING SHIP.

The secretary of the Arethusa training ship makes this appeal to Britons in the Far East:—"It is of the utmost importance that the splendid work of the Arethusa training ship should not suffer during the war and onwards. Its contribution of 2,500 boys to the Royal Navy, 6,500 boys to the mercantile and a further 4,000 to the British army's various services should make an appeal hard to resist. Another 6,000 from the Society's country homes have been trained to become worthy citizens of the British Empire, and many of them to day are in various British Colonies. If the Society to which this vessel belongs and its eight country and London homes are to be maintained in 1919 without a shortage of funds, it can only be accomplished by an increase of subscriptions and donations and by special gifts to the War Emergency Fund to meet the increased cost of food and materials. The committee plead earnestly for a generous response to this appeal. All gifts will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged if sent to 164, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C. 2, England."

## GERMAN LOSSES IN SHIPPING.

HALE OF HER MERCANTILE MARINE.

The Paris Chamber of Commerce Bulletin has lately published some interesting facts about the losses incurred by the German merchant service, and the increase of the Allies' mercantile fleets. The command of the seas being in the hands of the Allies, since the outset of the war, it points out, the German merchant-service have been stopped, except in the case of Norway and Sweden, with which countries trade has been carried on. Vessels still out at sea have been either seized or destroyed by the Allies, or else sunk by mines. Germany's mercantile fleet thus suffered from the very beginning of the war a loss of 500,000 tons. To this figure we must add the tonnage held up by the Allies in their own harbours and which amounts to 890,000 tons since the entrance of the United States, Brazil and China into the war. Then, too, the large number of vessels sold by their German owners to neutral shipbuilders must not be overlooked. Up to March 31st, 1917, Germany's losses in merchant vessels might be estimated at two millions and a half, gross tonnage, or about 45 per cent. of her mercantile fleet in time of peace. The *Berliner Tageblatt* of May 15th, 1917, acknowledged the loss of 630 vessels, or 2,116,000 tons of shipping. In July, 1917, the German Under-Secretary of State, Hoffmich, announced in the Reichstag that "two million tons of shipping had either fallen directly into the hands of the enemy, or been seriously imperilled."

OUT OF THE RUNNING.

These material losses are of all the greater consequence from a financial point of view, since the cost of a ton, which was 200 marks in time of peace, had risen to 700 marks in July, 1917. On the other hand, the capital represented by the German mercantile fleet, which has already decreased 50 per cent. owing to the losses it sustained, has been unproductive since 1914; this, for the first three years and a half of war, constitutes a loss of 400 million marks (216,000,000 francs) of costs for the maintenance of crews and vessels blocked in the various ports. Moreover, in the same lapse of time, the Allies' rival companies, profiting by the considerable rise in freight, benefited by diverting into their own channels the custom formerly given to German companies.

Owing to the prolongation of the war, the situation of German ship-owners has become more and more critical. In 1916, the usual reports of shareholders' meetings of large shipping companies no longer appeared in special papers, and the smaller companies were bought up by financial or metallurgic trade committees. In April, 1916, the Scandinavian Companies offered, in the market, at 750 marks, the 1,000 mark shares of the Hamburg-America Line, which before the war were quoted at 1,300 marks. The news was an idea of the losses occasioned by the war to Germany's mercantile fleet, which is now excluded from the chief markets of the world; however Germany is working to make good her losses.

ALLIES' NEW SHIPPING.

The Allies, too, have not been inactive, for in England, during the year 1917, 1,163,474 tons of fresh units were built, against only 530,000 in 1916. Moreover, 170,000 tons, purchased abroad, have been added to the British fleet. In France, such powerful metallurgic societies, such as the Etablissements Schneider of Creusot, the Tréfileries et Laminiers du Havre, the Société Normande de Métallurgie, have contracted with the principal shipbuilding societies, for repairing and rebuilding the fleet. With the assistance of the Comité Central des Armateurs de France, the Government has organized the control of the naval dockyards, and the general command of all French vessels, with the exception of fishing-smacks. It has obtained from Parliament the voting of a first credit of 500 millions for building new ships. It has also had "sea barges" over from the United States; these vessels are rapidly constructed and intended for plying between the neighbouring countries of England, Spain, Algeria, and Italy. Lastly, the conclusion of an agreement with Brazil has placed at the disposal of France the German vessels interned in Brazilian ports, or about 200,000 tons of shipping. These facts show that the Entente Powers will be able to keep the economic advantages obtained during the course of the war, and thoroughly to outdo German competition.

## HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. P. C. JENKIN, C.B.E.

Such as the issue of boots for the year 1916 will stop on Saturday, July 20th. All orders already issued to the Contractor (Hook Sing, 7, Queen's Road East) will be withdrawn on the above date. Members are therefore warned to apply at the shop forthwith.

By Order,  
T. F. Hogan,  
A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.  
July 9th, 1918.

## GREAT BRITAIN'S COMMERCIAL CONVENTIONS.

In the House of Commons on May 13th, Sir E. Carson asked the Prime Minister whether the Council of Ministers in France had denounced all commercial conventions containing a general clause regarding most-favoured nations; whether the object of such denunciation was to leave the country's hands free for the time when peace arrived; and whether it was the intention of his Majesty's Government to adopt a similar course, having regard to the probable shortage of raw material after the war and the necessity of providing for the requirements of the British Empire and her Allies.

Mr. Bonar Law: The answer to all parts of this question is in the affirmative.



## THE GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE TRIBUNAL.

## TO-DAY'S AGENDA.

3.30 p.m.—Messrs. Butterfield & Swire:—  
1.—N. S. Brown  
2.—J. R. Johnstone  
3.—C. C. Hickling  
4.—C. H. Davis  
5.—H. A. Nairn  
6.—R. W. McIntyre  
7.—R. W. Rawlinson  
8.—A. D. Galloway

Medically fit.

The following seven men of military age from this firm have been rejected as unfit for service:—T. R. Chassols, R. A. Wilkinson, L. A. Barton, T. J. Fisher, B. E. Fielder, J. McHutchon, and R. A. Lawson.

4 p.m.—The Hongkong Electric Co.:—

1.—S. Longfield  
2.—W. Fraser  
3.—V. Sorby  
4.—G. H. M. Bannerman  
5.—G. M. Cooke

Medically fit.

The following four men of military age from this firm have been rejected as unfit for service:—H. W. Potley, G. B. Colson, F. F. Duckworth, and H. J. Hunt.

4.15 p.m.—Messrs. Whiteway, Laidlaw & Company:—

1.—E. V. Mitchelmore—Medically fit.  
S. L. Hidden has not yet been medically examined, as he is on leave from the Colony.

4.30 p.m.—Doctors:—

1.—F. Linday Woods  
2.—S. S. Strahan

Medically fit.

There are no doctors of military age who have been rejected as unfit for service.

4.30 p.m.—International Banking Corporation:—

1.—D. Ritchie  
2.—K. B. Reid

Medically fit.

The following two men of military age from this bank have been rejected as unfit for service:—G. Hogg and N. Burn.

4.45 p.m.—Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son:—

1.—E. W. Abney—Medically fit.  
H. T. Mousley, unfit for service.

## ENLISTMENT OF NON-EUROPEAN BRITISH SUBJECTS THE CONDITIONS.

We are informed by the Colonial Secretary that a telegram has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that the Army Council have decided that British subjects, who are not of European descent, may be enlisted with combatant or other units of the British Army on the following conditions:—

- (1)—That they agree to eat the ordinary rations of the British soldier.
- (2)—That they will receive the same rates of pay as the British soldier.
- (3)—That they understand and can make themselves understood in English.
- (4)—That they will be posted to existing units according to their medical categories in accordance with current posting instructions. The formation of special units will not be allowed under any circumstances.

## CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO FUND.

The following is the subscription list to date:—

Acknowledged to 28th May, 1918, \$27,841.56

Since received:—

Mr. F. M. Joseph	50.00
Mr. F. G. Becke, Sub. May/June	40.00
M.S.S., Sub. June/July	10.00
"Lucky Numbers" per Messrs. Komor & Komor	3.00
Mr. H. B. L. Dowling	40.00
Sweepstakes, per Hon. Treas. Police Recreation Club	40.00
"The Winning Number"	7.00
"Kingdoms Kitty"	5.00
"Passed A-1"	5.00
"Sympathy"	20.00
Collected by Mrs. T. Arthur, List No. 12	465.00
Expended to 28th May, 1918	27,797.08
Since expended:—	
11,000 cigarettes sent to Lt. Col. E. W. L. Dunlop, O.I.E., D.E.C., R.F.A., Commandery, 17th Div. Amm. Column, B.E.F.	
5,000 cigarettes for 25th Middlesex Regt., Mt. Austin Barracks	
100,000 cigarettes sent to the troops at the Front	363.11
Balance in hand	\$28,180.19
	\$28,180.19

W. A. DOWLEY,  
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Hongkong, 8th July, 1918.

Amongst several acknowledgments received is the following from Armr. Staff Sgt. Bacon, London Irish Rifles, May 11th, 1918:—"Thank you very much for the cigarettes coming from Hongkong. They reminded me of happy days spent in the Colony, as I did a commission out there both in H.M.S. Albion and H.M.S. Sandpiper. Was very sorry to hear about the big fire on the race-course, Happy Valley. Pleasant memories."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## BUSINESS MEN AND MILITARY DUTIES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Sir,—May I be permitted the hospitality of your columns to air an opinion on the local man-power question?

We now have a well-constituted tribunal giving decisions upon the question of who can and who cannot be spared from our civilian community to join the fighting forces of the Empire. The decisions to date have been so eminently fair that one is tempted to suggest an extension of the usefulness of such a body.

Why not submit the members of our military community to treatment similar to that meted out to civilians, and get the tribunal to express an opinion upon

(1) the necessity or otherwise of their presence in the Colony, and (2) whether they could or could not undertake duties of local defence which would free business men for the work which they are best fitted to perform. It appears to many that the number of officers, especially senior officers, is in excess of local requirements. I shall be told that the presence or absence of military men is a matter for the Home Government to decide, but so, also, was the question of local conscription, and public opinion is just as likely to influence the Home Government in any case as in the other.

The two principal reasons why our local business man is able to perform less work to-day than he did in pre-war days are that he has now to perform military as well as business duties, and that Government interference has greatly increased the amount of labour involved in the transaction of business. The latter reason is beyond local control, but not so the former. The members of our business community are being partly incapacitated for their ordinary work by the military burdens which are laid upon them. These burdens probably seem light to the military mind, and they would seem equally light to those who have to perform them if they did not interfere so seriously with business. In what office is there not an officer or a sergeant who spends a considerable portion of his office hours on military duties which could easily be taken over by one of the regular officers? Similarly, substitutions could surely be arranged for the men who now spend nights on the searchlights. Such a transfer of duties would curtail the number of officers' early-afternoon bathing and tennis parties, but it would add to the efficiency of business, which is the foundation of the Empire, and it would give a more equitable apportionment of duties.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,  
GROUSER.

## CHANGED TERMS OF BUYING AND SELLING SHIPS.

The shipping market in Japan is now in an uncertain condition, in other words, shipping men have no clear idea as to whether the shipping market will become active or depressed. This state of affairs shows itself in the abnormal terms on which ships are now bought and sold.

The Japan Chronicle reports that recently the Kihara Company bought the *Akuma Maru* and a few other steamers on condition that these steamers should be sold back to the original owners—though at what price was not made known. This is practically a charter transaction. Another unusual transaction is the sale of a newly-built steamer of 3,500 tons from the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha to the Towa Kisen Kaisha. The price of the vessel is reported to be ¥850 a ton—rather high price on the face of it, but it is by no means high when it is learned that the seller is to pay ¥30 per ton per month as "charter money" to the buyer for the next twelve months. Why this sum is not deducted from the price instead of making it appear that the ship has been sold at a record figure it is not easy to understand—unless, indeed, it is designed to send up the value of tonnage.

The Mikami Shokai has bought the *Shosho Maru III*, and the *Reikizan Maru* (formerly the *Shosho Maru VII*), both vessels of 2,000 tons, from the Shosho Yoko, ostensibly at ¥630. It is stated, however, that the actual price is ¥600, and the buyer is bound by agreement to give two-thirds of the profit that may be realized by reselling the steamer.

## SHARES IN PRIZE BOUNTY.

An amendment of the scale of distribution of prize bounty has been authorised by Order in Council. The net amount is to be distributed in classes, so that each officer, man, and boy composing the complements of His Majesty's ships and vessels of war, and actually present on board at the time of such service, and every person present and assisting, shall receive shares according to his class. The shares range from 2,000 in the case of the Commander-in-Chief, Grand Fleet, to two shares for supernumeraries and fifteen for all persons temporarily employed in the naval forces at sea or in the land forces to which the ranks or ratings to which they are temporarily appointed may belong or be deemed equivalent.

## HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

## UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF LUBRICATING OIL.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of two gallons of lubricating oil.

Defendant was arrested on the Praya with the bucket of oil in his possession. He managed to escape, and when he was arrested later, two more buckets of oil were found near the place.

Defendant asserted that the Police had trumped up the charge against him. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe sentenced defendant to three weeks' hard labour.

## UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of six tacks of opium, other than Government opium, valued at \$72.

Revenue Officer Wilden stated that defendant was arrested in Connaught Road. Defendant said a friend gave him a parcel at Java to bring to Hongkong and he was not aware of its contents.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe fined defendant \$250, with the alternative of three months' hard labour.

## THEFT OF A PASSENGER'S TRUNK.

A Chinese pleaded guilty to stealing a box containing 42 pieces of clothing from a steamer in harbour.

Inspector Gordon stated that defendant went on board the steamer, and, finding luggage piled on the deck ready for removal, carried away the trunk, which belonged to a gentleman who had arrived from Vancouver. Defendant was arrested by a detective as he was getting into a ricksha.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour.

## ALLEGED INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

## CHINESE PAPERS SUMMONED.

At the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday, the Editors and Publishers of the *Tai Kwong* and *Chun Wan Yat Po*, two vernacular newspapers, were summoned before Mr. J. R. Wood, for publishing indecent and immoral advertisements.

The Hon. Mr. E. B. Hallifax, Secretary for Chinese Affairs, prosecuted, and Mr. M. K. Lo appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Lo applied for a remand, on the ground that he had only been instructed on Monday to appear on behalf of his clients, and, therefore, had not sufficient time to consider his position. Mr. Hallifax had kindly given him copies of the translations of the advertisements which had appeared and he required time to find out whether the advertisements published were really indecent or otherwise. In his opinion, the offence was a purely technical one, and it did not appear to him that the advertisements complained of were in any way offensive. He also wished to offer some argument on the matter. There were similar advertisements appearing in the English dailies which described certain effectual treatment for certain cases. Those advertisements could not in any way be termed indecent or immoral.

Mr. Hallifax said he was not pressing for a heavy penalty. With regard to similar advertisements, appearing in English papers, he pointed out that the present prosecutions were only the beginning of a campaign, and the other cases would be dealt with in regular course. The law applied equally to all classes, whether Chinese or English. No doubt there were similar advertisements appearing in the English papers, but they, too, would come under the Ordinance.

Mr. J. R. Wood remanded the case till 9 a.m. to-day.

## BATTLE OF FREE TRADE.

Viscount Harcourt, in a letter to the Free Trade Union meeting in Manchester, said that the battle of Free Trade (if not other) has been won by the war. There may in future be penal taxes for a time on enemy goods and security taxes for materials for pivotal industries, but no protective or preferential duties on raw materials and food, and no revenue duties on manufactures, because they would produce so little without international duties on similar home productions, which would cost much in collection and not yield sufficient. Our financial stability was the justification of Free Trade.

## PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, June 26th.

THE fears that the execution of General Lu Chien-chang would provoke serious trouble in the neighbourhood of the capital are being allayed. In spite of its apparent defiance of law and authority, the deed is regarded as a military precaution rather than as an act of private vengeance, and it looks as if it will pass without question, the more so that it has been officially condoned by the issue of the mandate approving of his punishment in accordance with previously-published instructions. It is significant that General Feng Yu-hsiang, whose independent movements on the Yangtze a few months ago caused him to be viewed with the gravest suspicion and to have his decorations and other honours cancelled, should have had these honours and decorations restored immediately after the execution of General Lu, who was his father-in-law; while to-day another mandate confers upon him the Fourth Class Order of Merit. Of course, Feng has atoned for past misdeeds and achieved merit by successful operations in Hunan against the South, but, all the same, it would appear as if the authorities were anxious to smother any scruples that Feng might entertain regarding the summary execution of his wife's father. Another sidelight on this affair is that the President and the Premier have each given two thousand dollars to the family of the deceased general in recognition of the fact that they worked together under President Yuan Shih-kai. The interesting feature of the situation as it exists to-day is that Lu's execution will not precipitate a crisis as was anticipated a week ago. The provinces seem to be satisfied that "Lu the Butcher" received no more than his deserts.

Peace seems to be no nearer. The Rump Parliament has opened another session and announced that China will now be divided between two governments. It blames Peking for perversity in not reconvening the defunct Parliament and thereby restoring peace. General Luk Wing-ting has telegraphed from the South inviting the President to have regard to the distracted state of the country and to promote peace. Feng Kuochang has replied that the Cabinet system is now in operation, and that it is for the Cabinet, and not himself, to decide what measures should be undertaken. In other words, he disclaims all responsibility. The Government seem to have received another lease of life. Generals Tsao Kun and Chang Hui-chi, who had become tired of fighting, have been persuaded again to proceed to the front. The former goes with the high-sounding title of Inspecting General of Kwangtung, Hunan, Szechuan and Kiangsi; while the latter's vanity has apparently been tickled by his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Government expedition to Kwangtung. If Shakespeare lived in China to-day he would never have asked the immortal question: "What's in a name?" He would have realised that it was everything. This re-union, or apparent re-union, in the ranks of the Peiyang party, suggests a renewal of the campaign against the South with increased vigour, provided, of course, Japan supplies the funds in the form of loans for industrial and other purposes.

MONEY-RAISING DEVICES.  
The Government, it need hardly be explained, is resorting to all kinds of devices for raising money. The country's birthright is being sold for a veritable "mess of pottage." It is appalling to learn the extent to which its assets are being mortgaged. The latest security to be offered Japan is the Peking-Mukden Railway. This seriously affects British interests, but the plea is that if the British do not lend money they cannot hold the Chinese responsible for what they may be compelled to do in their hour of extremity! It is possible that the security applies only to the railway outside the Great Wall, as it is the line within the Wall which is the subject of Treaty obligations. The outlook, indeed, is gloomy. Not even a ray of hope is to be discerned, for the situation, bad as it is, may very well become worse.

Mr. William Spencer, who was transferred from Tokyo to the U.S. Legation here, is to return to the Japanese capital. Mr. MacMurray coming back to Peking to his former position of first secretary. During his short stay here, Spencer made many friends, who will genuinely regret his departure.

Sir John Jordan has left for a vacation at Peking. The garden party under the auspices of the Anglo-Chinese Society, held in the grounds of the British Legation on Monday, was very picturesque and seemed to be enjoyed by the many Chinese and British ladies and gentlemen who attended. Music was rendered by the Resident band.

THE Germans.  
Hopes that the internment of Germans would soon be undertaken by the Chinese Government have been blasted. Something has happened. It is difficult to explain exactly what, but the movement has undoubtedly suffered a reverse.

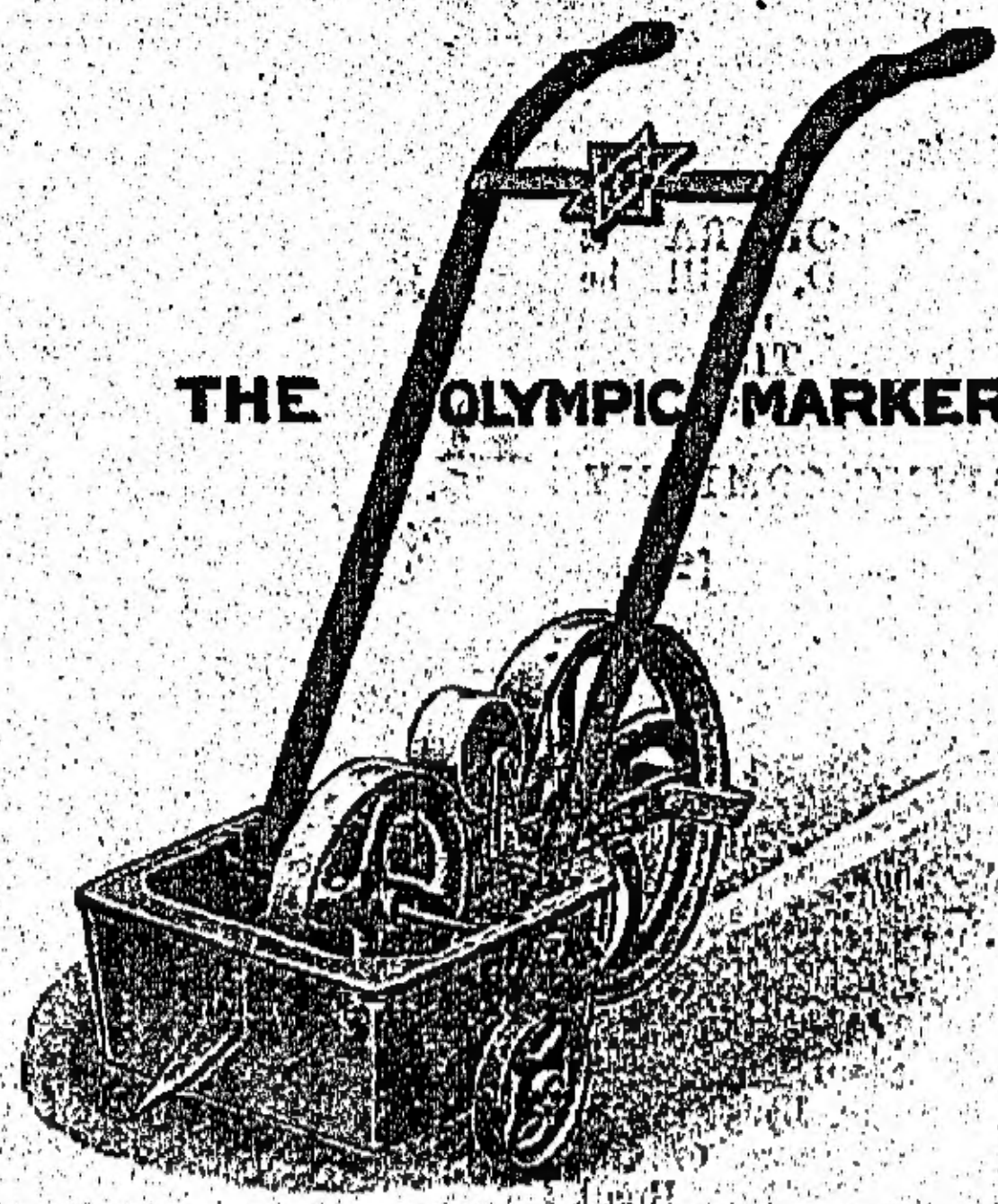
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# THE WAR.

## WHY THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE IS DELAYED.

### GERMAN WAR-LORDS IN COUNCIL.

## ASSASSINATION OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AT MOSCOW:

### ITS PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES.

## DESPERATE FIGHTING IN THE DELTA OF THE PIAVE.

### FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

#### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

### THE EXPECTED ENEMY OFFENSIVE.

### SPECULATIONS AS TO THE CAUSE OF ITS DELAY.

London, July 8th.

The delay in the German offensive, which the correspondents concur in declaring is fully prepared, is exciting much speculation. It is attributed in some quarters to a shortage of man-power owing to the prevalence of influenza, but it is believed in Paris that a political reason is responsible, and that it is possibly connected with the prolonged Council of War, which the Kaiser, Count Hertling, and Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff have been holding, for some days past, to which Baron von Kuchlinmann has now been hastily summoned. It is stated that the latter's party, which denies the possibility of a military victory, has been reinforced recently by accounts of the situation in Russia and the revelation that there are over a million American soldiers in France.

Experts in Paris are of opinion that the German reserves amount only to 55 divisions compared with 80 in the Spring. Hence they expect that the coming blow will be on a much restricted front.

### BRITISH FRONT.

### AUSTRALIAN AND SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES.

London, July 8th.

12.30 p.m.

Sir Douglas Haig states:—The Australians advanced their line slightly on a front of 3,000 yards astride the Somme, capturing several prisoners.

Scottish troops took a few prisoners in a successful raid southward of La Bassée Canal.

The Australians entered trenches eastward of Hazebrouck and brought back prisoners.

Hostile artillery was active astride the Somme, following our operations also, westward of Beaumont-Hamel and in the neighbourhood of Bethune.

### AMERICAN THOROUGHNESS.

London, July 7th.

11.25 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states:—The Australians' new advance, which reached a depth of 400 yards, secures a commanding view for 5,000 yards. The whole Villers-Bretonneux success was a great triumph for the tanks. One of these flattened out, successively, six machine-gun nests with their crews, another obliterated 30 machine-guns. We captured 200 prisoners.

The thoroughness of the Americans roused unstinted praise from the Austrians. The former, charged shouting "Lusitania." The fight was the most economical of its kind we have ever fought. Not a single tank was lost.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

### HOSTILE RAID REPULSED.

London, July 7th.

10.30 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We repulsed an attempted hostile raid on the morning of July 7th near Loos.

There is hostile artillery firing and trench-mortar activity on the Bethune sector.

### FOUR GERMAN AEROPLANES PUT OUT OF ACTION.

Three German aeroplanes have been destroyed, and one driven down uncontrollable. One British machine is missing.

Seventeen tons of bombs have been dropped on various targets during the last 24 hours.

### BRITISH RAID EASTWARD OF HAMEL.

London, July 7th.

12.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We took a few prisoners in a raid eastward of Hamel.

Hostile artillery is active at Fonquevillers and Hinges.

### FRENCH FRONT.

### SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN RAID.

London, July 8th.

An American official message states:—We successfully raided in the Vosges, killing and wounding a number and taking several prisoners.

### Italian Front.

#### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

### DESPERATE FIGHTING IN THE DELTA.

London, July 8th.

Press Correspondents at Italian Headquarters, describing the fighting which preceded the expulsion of the Austrians from the Piave delta, state that the Austrians, unable to entrench in the water-logged soil, filled 30 square miles of marshland with machine-gun posts, which were approachable only frontally along the tops of dykes, and converted scattered houses into fortresses. The troops left to defend the delta were mostly Muslim Bosnians, who resisted most desperately.

Four columns of Bersaglieri and sailors were assigned to the task of breaking up the enemy defences. They fought continually up to their waists in water. Both sides often lost their weapons in the bogs and fought with their hands and teeth.

ASTOUNDING FEATS were performed by the Arditi in the closing phases of the battle. Armed with long poles, they cleared all obstacles and landed in the rear of the machine-gunners, into whose backs they drove daggers. A company of Bersaglieri rushed and captured a battery of 4-inch guns. Another company, preceded by flame-throwers, stormed a factory in the face of 40 machine-guns and took all the officers prisoner.

Altogether 1,300 machine-guns were captured in the delta. Hundreds more are buried in the swamps or in the ruins of demolished buildings.

### SUCCESSFUL ITALO-FRENCH OPERATION.

London, July 8th.

An Italian official message states:—By small actions we gained ground northward of Grappa and extended our advanced occupation of the region of Colcapprile.

An Italo-French force, between the coast and Tomorica Valley, in Albania, began an operation on July 6th which is developing satisfactorily.

Prisoners already exceed 1,000.

### STUBBORN ENEMY DEFENCE BROKEN UP.

London, July 6th.

6.35 p.m.

An Italian official communiqué says:—On the lower Piave our pressure, continuing firmly, again broke up the stubborn enemy defence. Yesterday we gained more ground, reaching the right bank of the New Piave from Grisolen to the river mouth. We took over 400 prisoners.

A violent offensive, in return, attempted by the enemy northward, in the direction of Chiesa Nuova, was arrested. Renewed violent attacks on our positions at Port de Salton, north-eastward of Grappa, failed.

### ITALIANS CONSOLIDATING.

London, July 7th.

5.30 p.m.

An Italian official message says:—We are consolidating ourselves on the ground recaptured on the right bank of the New Piave. There is every indication that the enemy's losses are much higher than was foreseen.

The French, in a brilliant raid on Zocchi, on the Asiago Plateau, took 94 prisoners.

### ENEMY ATTACKS SANGUINARILY REPULSED.

Three enemy attacks at Cornone between Frenzola-Valent and the Brenta were sanguinarily repulsed.

### AUSTRIAN REPORTS.

London, July 7th.

5.30 p.m.

A wireless Austrian official message yesterday stated:—Fighting continued at the mouth of the Piave, and on the southern wing of our positions the enemy succeeded in pressing us back towards the main body.

LATER.

A wireless Austrian official report says:—As the delta of the Piave was untenable without heavy sacrifices, we withdrew to a dyke position on the eastern bank of the main branch. The operation was carried out on the night of July 5th. The enemy felt their way at mid-day on July 6th as far as the river.

### Naval Activities.

#### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

### THE DUTCH CONVOY.

London, July 8th.

Mr. Gibson Bowles, in a letter to the Times, denounces the concession as regards the Dutch convoy as a return to the declaration of London, and asks whether the Allies concur. If not, then the convoy is liable to search by Japanese and United States warships, also to an attack from German submarines unless Germany has also guaranteed it immunity, which will be a privilege not enjoyed by a neutral in any war.

The Times, in an editorial, describes the Foreign Office communiqué on the subject of the convoy as humiliating and unintelligible, and says the Government has established a precedent which will be cited against us.

### Aerial Activities.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

### ENEMY RAILWAYS BOMBED.

#### SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS.

London, July 7th.

The Air Ministry report:—On the afternoon of July 6th our squadrons successfully attacked the railways at Metzablon and dropped 24 tons of bombs on this objective.

Enemy machines attacked our formations over our objective. One hostile machine was driven down, but all the British aircraft returned safely.

At night-time on July 6th our machines successfully attacked the railway station and sidings at Sarbrücken and the railways at Metzablon.

### General.

#### LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

### ASSASSINATION OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA.

### ESCAPE OF THE TWO PERPETRATORS.

Berlin, July 7th.

A message from Berlin states that Count Mirbach, German Ambassador at Moscow, was assassinated by two men, who sought an audience with him, and then killed him with revolver shots and bombs. They escaped.

### M. KERENSKY ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MURDER.

Paris, July 8th.

M. Kerensky, interviewed, said he deplored any murder but rejoiced at the death of Count Mirbach, which would be fortunate for Russia and mark the commencement of the renaissance of the country. The anti-German movement would start from Moscow, and it was now certain that the Germans would occupy Moscow.

### MURDER THE SIGNAL FOR BIG REVOLT.

AMSTERDAM, July 8th.

A message from Berlin states that the murderers of Count Mirbach are sheltered in a building occupied by Social Revolutionaries and defended by machine-guns.

The impression is growing that the murder was the signal for a big revolt of the Social Revolutionaries, fighting in connection with which is occurring in Moscow. Details are lacking.

### COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY RISING SUPPRESSED.

London, July 8th.

A wireless Russian official message states that a counter-revolutionary rising of the Left Social Revolutionaries at Moscow has been suppressed. Several hundreds have been arrested.

### INDIGNATION EXPRESSED BY PRO-GERMAN LEADERS.

London, July 8th.

A Russian wireless message states that M. Lenin has informed Ambassador Ioffe at Berlin of the murder of Count Mirbach and has ordered him immediately to visit Baron von Kuchlinmann and express the nation's indignation. It states that M. Lenin, M. Sverlofer, M. Tchitcherin, and M. Karahan on receipt of the news immediately assured the Chief of the German Mission that extraordinary measures were being taken for the discovery of the murderers. The whole quarter in which the Embassy is situated was immediately surrounded by troops and severe control was established of the arrivals at and departures from the town. An extraordinary plenipotentiary will be dispatched to Berlin to express indignation.

### GERMAN EXPEDITION TO MOSCOW EXPECTED.

A German expedition to Moscow is anticipated as a result of Count Mirbach's murder.

### JAPAN'S ARMY AND NAVY.

London, July 8th.

The Times' Correspondent at Tokio telegraphing on July 1st, stated that the Council of Field-Marshal and Admirals have decided upon a plan of co-operation of the Army and Navy, and have approved in principle of increasing the Army to 21 corps, 32 divisions, and 126 regiments.

### HOSPITAL-SHIPS SEARCHED BY GERMANS.

### BRITAIN HAS NEVER BROKEN THE LETTER OR SPIRIT OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION.

London, July 8th.

In the House of Commons, Dr. Macnamara, stated that German submarines, had, on several occasions, exercised the right of searching hospital-ships in order to see that they were complying with the Hague Convention. He emphasised the fact that Great Britain had never broken the letter or spirit of the convention as regards hospital-ships, and he believed that the same was true regarding the Allies.

### AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

### GERMAN OCCUPATION OF BAKU PROBABLE.

London, July 8th.

Significant reports are appearing in the German Press of Bolshevik cruelties at Baku, which, it is alleged, necessitate a German occupation of this district.

### PEACE CAN ONLY COME BY UNDERSTANDING.

### GERMANS MUST CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE.

AMSTERDAM, July 8th.

The Vorwärts says that President Wilson and Mr. Winston Churchill both make a decisive Allied military victory a pre-requisite of peace; therefore, the Germans must continue the struggle until the Allies were convinced that peace can only come by understanding.

### THE SILVER MARKET.

London, July 8th.

Silver is quiet.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

### CHILEAN CABINET RESIGNS.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, July 8th.

The Cabinet has resigned. So far no explanation has been given.

### JAPAN AND SIBERIA.

### NO INTERVENTION REPORT CONTRADICTED.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TOKIO, July 1st.

The report emanating from Washington to the effect that Japan has decided to decline the request of the Entente Governments to intervene in Siberia under any circumstances is stated on authority to be untrue. There has been no change in the attitude of Japan. The reply from the American Government is being awaited.

In unofficial circles in Japan there is almost a united feeling that there is no necessity for despatching troops to Siberia at the present moment.

### PRISONERS STARVED. GERMANS STOP PARCELS.

The New York Times prints a despatch from its well-informed Hague correspondent declaring that from irrefutable evidence it is impossible to close one's eyes to what is going on in hospitals and prisoner camps in Germany.

The correspondent says it is a mistake to believe that the treatment of prisoners and wounded in Germany has improved. "On the contrary," he adds, "it is as bad as ever it was, and even worse." He asserts that the punishments inflicted are "cruel and inhuman," and he describes as a favourite punishment the withholding of parcels of food and clothing from a whole camp or large bodies of prisoners, although the prisoners are absolutely dependent on these parcels.

He continues: "It is established beyond doubt that prisoners are employed behind the front and under shell fire in defiance of the Hague agreement of 1917. Some prisoners never reach camp in Germany for six months, meanwhile receiving no parcels of food. Their condition on arriving at the camp, broken down and starving, is pitiable. It is reported that the first American prisoners taken were hawked about the country, presumably to show them off to the populace. At Giessen, where it would seem, American prisoners were kept on two separate occasions, they were prohibited from having any intercourse even by sign language with the other prisoners, and were not allowed to receive parcels or gifts from them. The British prisoners at Giessen asked if they could give parcels to the Americans, and finally received permission, but next day the American prisoners were moved away early in the morning."

The correspondent quotes the following as a few samples from the large amount of sworn evidence:—"Four thousand men sent from a Westphalian camp to within 20 miles behind the front; their guards ran away to escape British shrapnel. The state of the prisoners coming from the big Somme battle was deplorable. Their wounds had not been dressed in many cases for more than ten days. Owing to lack of dressing their British comrades bandaged their wounds with old towels and shirts."

"It was formally announced by the German authorities at the camp at Bonn on April 13rd that two British soldiers, R. and B., had been shot near Minden for not stopping talking when ordered."

"In November, 1917, men were brought into the hospital at M. continually having been wounded by shrapnel behind the lines. The wounded men lay for three or four weeks, unattended and grossly neglected. Much of the sworn evidence is so repugnant as to be unbelievable. There has been talk of reprisals on American prisoners, and even foreigners born in the United States are included in these threatened reprisals. We will hit America through the Allies," one commandant stated."

### BOLSHEVIKS SUPPRESSED AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

### ALLIES LAND FORCES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TOKIO, July 1st.

On the 29th at 5.30 p.m. the Czech troops in Vladivostock attacked the Soviet Headquarters and occupied them. Of 200 Soviet troops, 41 were taken prisoners, three killed, and 186 wounded. The Commander-in-Chief and the Soviet staff were all taken prisoners. The defeat of the Soviets was principally due to the fact that they were not prepared, and that they lately despatched a large number of troops westward to check their opponents' advance. American Marines have also been landed at Vladivostock.

A telegram from Vladivostock says that the Soviet headquarters are now occupied by the Czech-Slavs, as well as the telegraph office, the national bank and the Zemstvo office. It is believed that representatives of the political parties, the Zemstvo and the Municipality will meet and organize a Commissary of the Siberian Government.

Japanese and British marines have established and are holding a neutral zone. Fifty Chinese marines have also been landed. There is no imminence of an armed conflict so far, but vigilance is necessary for protection of foreigners. It is thought generally that the power of the Soviet is waning.

The details regarding the coup on the 29th are as follows:—

At 10 o'clock on Saturday morning the Commandant of the Czech-Slovak troops issued an ultimatum to the local Soviet stating that as the Bolsheviks, assisted by armed German and Austrian prisoners of war, were opposing the passage of the Czech-Slovak troops to Vladivostock from Western Siberia and the local Bolsheviks are showing signs of acting in an antagonistic manner towards the Czechs, he considered it his duty to take such steps as lay in his power to assist his fellow-countrymen and, as a preliminary measure, had decided to disarm the local Bolsheviks. He gave half-an-hour for a reply and no reply being received the disarmament was forthwith proceeded with and carried out practically without any resistance and 600 sailors laid down their arms and the other Bolshevik elements were dispersed or surrendered. The only fighting which took place was in a building near the railway station, which the Czechs captured in the evening with very slight casualties although a considerable number of the Bolsheviks were killed or wounded, including several Germans and Magyars.

Landing parties from the British and Japanese warships patrolled and enforced neutrality in the area where the Consulates are situated. The American and Chinese warships also landed parties later to assist this measure.

The only elected members of the old local administration who were ejected from office by the Bolsheviks have resumed control. The question of the future government has not been decided. Order now prevails and general relief and satisfaction is manifest at the overthrow of the Bolshevik régime.

#### GERMAN PRISONERS ORGANIZING.

HARBIN, June 29th.

Two influential Russians who have just arrived from Russia state that the German and Magyar prisoners of war in Siberia are hastily forming detachments, and notices have been posted at all the principal stations of the main Siberian line, explaining that the object of forming these detachments is to fight for the cause of the International Proletariat. However, all intelligent Russians have no doubt that the real meaning of these German organizations is to take possession of Western Siberia, following the example of the Germans in the Ukraine.

In an interview, Colonel Gluhareff, Chief of the Political Department of General Flug's Mission, who has just arrived from Russia, states that the Mission was despatched to Siberia by General Korniloff and General Alexieff with the object of leading the detachments of Siberian troops which are withdrawing German Bolshevik and to form local organizations consisting of the stable elements which prefer the salvation of their country to their own political programme. The object of these organizations is to fulfil the administrative and economic functions of the Government as soon as Bolshevism has been overcome. A central Government has been elected. The Mission has arrived in Harbin with the intention of finding out the local political situation, and to organize co-operation between the Union for the Defence of the Motherland and Liberty, headed by General Alexieff and General Korniloff, and the sound element of the local population.

Colonel Gluhareff has strong doubts concerning the truth of the report of the death of General Korniloff, and says that both General Korniloff and General Alexieff are continuing to work for the cause of their country.

#### REVIVAL IN TURKISTAN.

PEKING, July 2nd.

A telegram sent from Tehgutehak on the 10th describes the situation in Russian Turkistan.

On the 15th one of the detachments of the Bolsheviks captured the region from the Bolsheviks captured all the Bolsheviks at Urdjar without resistance. A second detachment, after some fighting, defeated the Bolsheviks at Bakhti, near the Mongolian frontier, and captured all of them including a man named Golik, and the Red Guards with whom he intended to seize the post of Russian Consul at Tehgutehak.

Detachments of the Committee intend to disarm without delay all the Bolsheviks in the district, and then to go to Sergiopol, Lepinsk and Kopal and do likewise, thus eventually saving the province of Semichensk.

The Committee received its first financial aid from the Russian colony at Tehgutehak, but it is short of arms and money. The Bolsheviks have been defeated at Zaisang, Ustkenenogorsk, Pavlodar, Tchelninsk, Novonikolavsk, Ishim, Tacea and Tumen, where the Soviets have been overthrown and their leaders arrested.

#### NEUTRALITY ENFORCED.

VLADIVOSTOCK, July 8th.

The Anglo-Jap-American landing parties have enforced neutrality in the neighbourhood of the Consulate.



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AMERICAN LABOUR MISSION. VISIT TO THE FRONT.

The American Labour Delegation returned to London after an eight or nine days' visit to France, imbued with a still firmer belief, if that were possible, in the cause of the Allies and with a conviction based on what they saw that that cause is bound to prevail. Interviewed shortly after their return, by a Press representative, Mr. Joseph W. Short, president of the Seattle Federation of Labour, said they were taken first of all to see the German prison camps. They later saw the British base of supplies and the American base of supplies, and then visited the thousands of troops in the locality, both American and British. They were then the guests of the Belgian Government, and met the American Ambassador, Mr. Brand Whitlock, who related to them many of the cruelties inflicted by the Germans on the Belgian people in the occupied territory. After visiting the famous Valley of the Marne battlefield and Rheims, they went on to Verdun. Describing his visit to the American lines, Mr. Short said:

"We were taken right into the front line trenches going through the communication trenches from the back right up in sight of the German lines. One American officer and eight men had been decorated that morning by the French Government with the Croix de Guerre. The major who took us through the lines told us that just two nights previously the Germans had come over and got seven of their men, but they left behind six of their men as prisoners. This was a very good exchange. The American boys seem to be in excellent spirits, and they are anxious to do a lot more fighting than they have been privileged to do so far, and they were very much elated at the idea that there was a possibility of more fighting for them. We were several times under fire during our journey, but none of us was hit."

The general impression of the situation as we found it is that everything we saw in France and have seen in England has served to emphasize the conviction we had when we came here that America has to get into this with both hands and feet, to use all the resources she has, and to send the most men she can to the front. We knew that Germany can be linked, but the sooner America sends all her resources over here the sooner the job will be finished. It is not going to be finished until that is done, and every day lost and every man withheld is merely making unnecessary sacrifices. That is the message we are going to take back to our own people."

RECEPTION IN FRENCH CHAMBER.

On the suspension of the sitting of the Chamber a reception was held at the Palais Bourbon in honour of the American Labour Mission. The mission was received by Mr. Deschanel, President of the Chamber, assisted by M. Dubost, President of the Senate, M. Clemenceau, Premier, M. Pichon, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and all the other members of the Government, as well as a great many Senators and Deputies. The proceedings were marked by the greatest cordiality.

M. Deschanel, in greeting the mission on behalf of the Chamber, referred to President Wilson as the illustrious President of the American democracy, who, though a lover of peace, was determined wholly against his will, by the ambition and tyranny of an overruling caste, to defend on a still vaster stage, the principles of Washington and Lincoln; and who, by his condemnation of Prussian militarism, and by his championship of the emancipation from a regime of cunning and force of Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium, and all oppressed nationalities, became the apostle of universal right and one of the foremost interpreters of the human conscience.

M. Dubost greeted the mission on behalf of the Senate. M. Pichon said: "Among the visits we have received from abroad since the beginning of the war none has given us greater pleasure or proved more useful than that of the American Mission whose presence we are greeting to-day. It has come from a lover of peace, but determined wholly against his will, by the ambition and tyranny of an overruling caste, to defend on a still vaster stage, the principles of Washington and Lincoln; and who, by his condemnation of Prussian militarism, and by his championship of the emancipation from a regime of cunning and force of Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium, and all oppressed nationalities, became the apostle of universal right and one of the foremost interpreters of the human conscience."

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COUNTRESS' SOCIAL SUICIDE

The Countess of Warwick, speaking at a conference on "Land Nationalisation" at the Memorial Hall recently, said she supposed she was invited to the meeting because she was a large landowner herself, and therefore somewhat of a freak in the eyes of those belonging to the Land Nationalisation Society. (Laughter.) In her own right she owned 50,000 acres of land, irrespective of what more or less might have brought her, so that in the eyes of her family and friends, in belonging to this society she was, so to speak, committing social and moral kaffir. She was, however, heart and soul in favour of land nationalisation. It was going to be one of the most important problems of the future. (Laughter.) The question of the agricultural labourer was one nearest her heart, because they were people who loved the soil, and had stuck to the land under the most hopeless conditions from sheer love of their homes.

A resolution in favour of the public ownership of land was unanimously carried on the motion of Alderman A. H. Scott, L.C.C., seconded by the Countess of Warwick.

AUSTRIAN PRISONS. A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT OF "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.")

Austria, where I spent three years in captivity, is, I believe, the only country where internment stations exist as well as camps. The treatment in them is not so bad as in camps. I have not heard of any cases of cruelty to prisoners occurring, whereas in camps these are very numerous, and were especially so at the beginning of the war. In a station the prisoners are allowed to live in rooms of their own choosing, instead of in barracks, but, of course, paying rent all the time. Raabs, one of the places where the civilians are interned, is quite a small market town, about four hours from Vienna, in a very poor and thinly populated neighbourhood. Turning this and other similar villages into internment stations was partly done with the object of giving the inhabitants an opportunity for earning money. There is no control whatever over the charges made by landlords and shopkeepers, and these knew that most of the interned would rather pay all they could afford than go into one of those horrible camps. Thus the unfortunate captives are exploited in every way. It is impossible, for example, to get accommodation at Raabs for a family of three for less than 2400 a year. Most of the houses were only peasants' houses—and an Austrian peasant's house can only be described as a hole. Dirty—no comforts of any description. Added to this one has to pay for light and for a servant girl to do the dirty work if one can afford it. Nothing is free, and nothing is cheap. The village shops have two distinct charges—one for the inhabitants, one for the interned.

HATED "BRITISHERS."

At Raabs in 1915 the discipline, especially towards the hated "Britishers," was very strict. Whereas Russians and French were allowed to stay out till eleven p.m. daily our fellow-countrymen all had to be in their rooms by eight p.m. and have their meals there, but they were not allowed to set foot in one. This was very hard on men living alone, as very rarely would a land-lady cook for her lodger, nor would she allow him to cook for himself on a spirit stove in his room. The result was that many used to break rules and have their meals in some back kitchen or scullery of an inn. Of course, if they were found by a gendarme, there would be a row, and a punishment; either twenty-four or forty-eight hours in a camp or in a cell. As the gendarmes made a habit of prowling about back kitchens and sculleries, especially in the evening, these rows were pretty frequent. At last, after about eighteen months, the authorities became tired of these daily rows with the English prisoners, and allowed them the same freedom as the others had always enjoyed.

For the first two years the prisoners had to report daily at ten o'clock all had to assemble at the gendarmerie, and then the roll was called, and anyone who had broken a rule got a "dressing-down." Letters and parcels were also distributed at the same time. The prisoners were allowed to take a fair number of walks, within a radius of about a mile or a mile and a half from the village. Altogether there was a great deal of freedom, but yet no one can ever be sure of his or her position. The authorities had a nasty habit of removing prisoners from one camp or station to another at twenty-four hours' notice. This was especially hard in the cases of families, for everyone tried to make the best arrangements possible for comfort, and moving at such short notice often meant property having to be left behind.

Periodical visits used to be paid to camps and stations by higher officials, in order to hear any complaints. But, of course, we knew better than to make any complaint—however justifiable it might be. For whoever made a complaint might be certain of being removed to a worse camp within twenty-four hours. The gendarmes, on the other hand, were allowed to remove anyone for misdeemeanor of any kind. Here is one instance: on all the farms round about, Russian peasants, who had been taken from their homes at the time of the Austrian advance, were allowed to work. It quite depended on the individual for whom they worked whether they were well treated or not. But at best they were a miserable set. One of these men once asked the woman for whom he was working his shirt for him, as she had not done it for so long. As she refused he began to wash it himself. This infuriated her so that she attacked him and struck him. The Russian, as this was not the first time he had been treated so, wished to tell the gendarme, and asked a Russian gentleman to come and interpret for him. The Russian gentleman did this, telling the gendarme what had happened, and two days after he was removed to Kautzen, another station. As there have been so many such cases no one will complain of anything.

BLACK HOLE OF ILLMAU.

Some of the prisoners, about twenty-four of them, before being brought to Raabs, were interned at a broken-down old hydropathic called Salzerbad. When taken there was seemingly no guard, only a waiter in the dining-room. This man told them that they must pay for their room a day or be sent to a camp. Whilst there the prisoners were guarded and spied on by this waiter and a chambermaid. The place was managed like an hotel—except that the inmates were prisoners, and were exposed to unspeakable rudeness from all the people concerned. Although they were paying for 1914-15 an unheard-of price they were only spoken of by the people as "the Baggins." The gendarme came at irregular intervals to inspect, sometimes every day, sometimes not for two or three days, but always at different hours. He was always under the influence of drink, and most coarse in his manner; would shout and rave at the unfortunate prisoners, all for nothing. Walks at Salzerbad were very limited—four minutes in one direction, twenty minutes in the other—that was all. Any

extra things bought at the restaurant were sold at exorbitant prices; for instance, twenty kronen a kilo was charged for butter, although at that time it was plentiful, and cost four kronen. In fact, the prisoners were practically starved; at the end of three months, when they were all removed to Raabs, most of them had lost 20lb. to 25lb. in weight. Many men now at Raabs began their term of imprisonment at a place called Illmau, an old half-ruined castle in Lower Austria. A party of Englishmen were taken there shortly after they had been arrested in Vienna. They were marched along for about twenty kilometres, carrying their bags or packages. It was very cold, below freezing point, and when at last they arrived at Illmau at dark they were pushed into a kind of cellar, three or four steps below the level of the ground. A soldier locked them in, telling them they could go there and die. It was a place with no windows—only a small hole in the door. The floor, bare earth, was wet and muddy, water trickling down the walls. For every two men was one straw sack, also damp, of course, and they were so closely packed they could not lie straight.

During the day it was so dark that they could not see each other's faces. In the morning they were told that, if they wanted to wash, they might go to the camp from which they also got their drinking water. This pump stood in the middle of a manure heap, and could only be reached by wading knee-deep through the liquid pool surrounding the manure heap. The quality of the drinking-water can be rather imagined than described. The treatment was most rough; the only argument a guard ever used was the butt-end of his rifle—if not the bayonet. Not many were allowed to see their families. "Schweine-Engländer" (Swine-English). One day some high officials came to inspect Illmau, and after they had seen the above-ground portion, the Englishmen, who were shut up in their cellar, could hear them making if no one was shut up in the cellars, as by rights they ought to inspect the cellars, too. But the guard officer assured them on his solemn word of honour that the cellars were empty. And those who were there did not dare to call out—they knew what their punishment would be—"stringing-up" at least. This is an old punishment, where the wrists are fettered behind the back, a cord attached and passed through a ring in the wall over the prisoner's head. This cord is then pulled tight, till the man is forced right on to his toes. He is then kept so for about an hour, or till he faints. This was often done at Illmau. After the Englishmen had been in there for a week, and were nearly all ill with the terrible cold, they were told they could go into an upstairs room. These rooms were occupied by Serbs and Poles, nearly all very ill with consumption and very dirty. Each man received a blanket of a kind of checked pattern. When these blankets were hung up in the yard to air, it was impossible to recognize their pattern—they were all a crawling mass. The room into which the Englishmen were put was so full that when they lay down at night they were almost one on the top of the other. The consumptives were always expectorating, and "sanitary arrangements" were unknown.

DASTARDLY INSULTS TO LADIES.

Dreosdorf was another camp, not far from Raabs, especially during the first months, prisoners endured the greatest hardships. They slept in sheds, in stables sometimes on wet straw, sometimes without, and were treated as brutally as in other camps. Here were also some women, and a lady I knew personally. When the latter was brought there with other prisoners, male and female, after walking for miles, they were shut into a large room—men and women together. There the "sanitary arrangements" consisted of a large pail put down in the middle of the room. This lady was kept in this room with the men for some days, and not allowed to leave it. In this camp at present there are principally Russians, and rarely a day passes that a death does not occur from starvation. Here, as also in the large camp of Katzenau, the rations are as follows:—

Breakfast—Tea made of a mixture of dried birch and starwort leaves, and sixty grammes (about 2oz) of bread. Midday—Soup made of turnips, or potatoes, boiled and served in the water they are boiled in (no salt or fat), and another sixty grammes of bread. Evening—Same as breakfast. At some places the same vessels are used for boiling the soup. Bergamo in Hungary was at the beginning a much dreaded place. It is surrounded on three sides by the Danube and bordered with steep cliffs. At the beginning there were over 30,000 prisoners—men, women, children—there, but not sufficient accommodation, so many spent the nights out of doors in the rain and endless mud. Some lived in tents. Of course striking a match in the dark was strictly forbidden, and when once someone did strike one, the guards rushed in, striking about them blindly with their bayonets. Once one unfortunate Scotchman was attacked very badly, and came out to ask the guard to take him to a doctor. The guard simply ordered him to go back to the tent and be quiet. When the sick man begged again, the guard simply knocked him down with the butt-end of his rifle.

One camp, which was even lately mentioned as a disgrace in the Austrian Parliament, is Thalerhof, near Graz, the capital of Styria. Here they kept principally their own refugees from Galicia. One Polish lady who had been there for eight months is now in Raabs. She was taken away from her own house in Galicia in the clothes she stood in, allowed to take nothing with her. Eventually she reached Thalerhof. Through her sufferings there the poor woman is so broken down that it is almost impossible to get her to speak of what she has been through. A little she told me. When they—the other ladies, priests, peasants, men of all classes—were brought to Thalerhof, the ladies (not the peasant women) were told they must come and bathe. It was many degrees below freezing point, but they were taken to a shed, open all round, down the middle of which a long row of troughs half-filled with dirty water was arranged. The water had already been used by soldiers for washing their clothes. Then they were ordered to undress. The soldiers with fixed bayonets surrounded these ladies, while they completely undressed in the open, and forced them to bathe

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. BRITISH REPRISALS.

Lord Newton, speaking at a Conservative meeting at Newton, near Warrington, recently, said there was a popular misconception that the British Government persisted in refusing to treat German prisoners in the same way as the British prisoners were treated in Germany. There were two classes of critics. Persons who protested violently against retaliation at all, and characterized it as an unchristian act, to which we ought to be superior. Critics of that kind came partly from the Church, but in the greater part it came from those persons who had hampered our action since the beginning of the war. Secondly, from persons who were always clamouring for retaliation. Such persons, as a rule, had no connection with the prisoners at all, and were in no danger of suffering in any way themselves. In his opinion the general principle which ought to be observed with regard to prisoners was to treat them well, as he believed it was a good policy. On the other hand, nothing could be more idiotic than to announce to the world that under no circumstances would they indulge in retaliation. To his mind occasions arose when retaliation was necessary. It ought to be applied not for purposes of revenge, but in order to ameliorate the conditions of our own men. (Hear, hear.) When once they decided upon it they must go on with it, and not take it up and drop it. It would interest and surprise them to learn that at this moment retaliation was in progress with regard to German officers in one of the military camps in Great Britain. It was done because the Germans had persistently declined to remedy the grievance that existed in respect of a number of our men in Germany. The person concerned in Germany was the commander of the 10th Army Corps, and the conditions for our officers had been rendered almost insupportable. They had done their best to get this grievance remedied by representation and the usual methods, but had failed; and they had been obliged to institute reprisals upon German officers.

in the troughs, threatening them with fixed bayonets all the time and torturing them with coarse jokes. The low-class women were left quiet, not forced to bathe like this. After the bath was over they were shut up in a room crowded with people full of vermin. The ladies were always chosen for the dirty work—never the peasant women, just as the priests were set to clear up the "sanitary arrangements," which there consisted of a long open ditch with board along one side of it.

CIVILIANS KIDNAPPED.

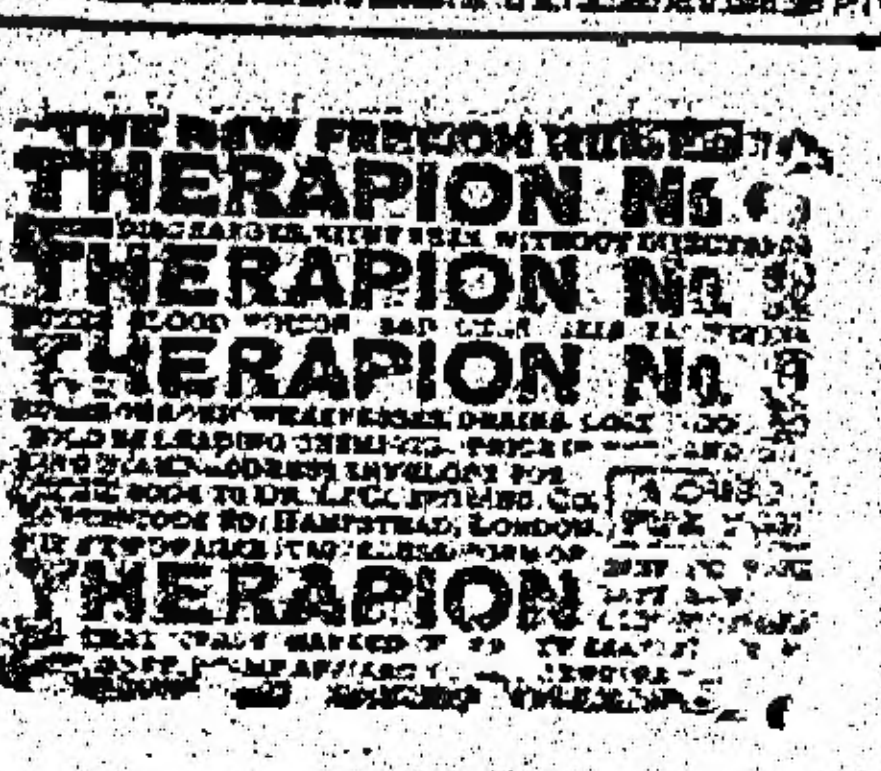
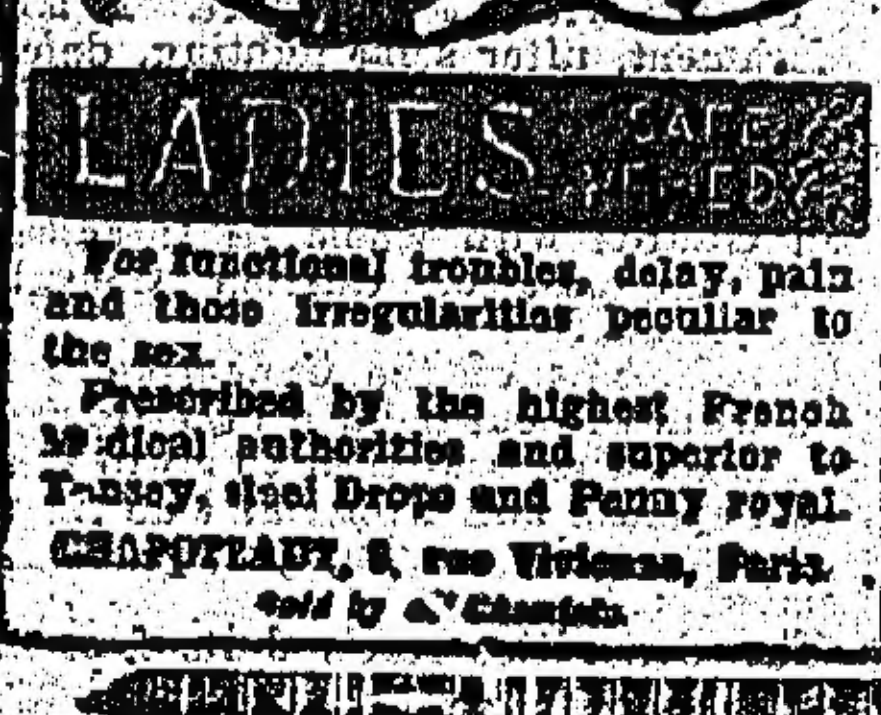
At the beginning they had a cruel way of arresting people. They would march them off as they stood, not letting them communicate with wives or friends or relatives. I know of one lady who for about two months did not know where her husband was while he knew just as little about her. Two Serbian ladies, mother and daughter, who had also been at Salzerbad, had been staying at a little watering-place in Dalmatia, where they had gone for many years. One evening, when they were only dressed in cotton dressing-gowns, they were asked by an official to come down to a steamer lying at the wharf. Only for a few minutes, he said; there were just a few questions to be asked. So they went just as they were, and went on the boat with several others; someone began to ask them questions, when to their horror they noticed the ship was moving. They were taken right away, as they were, in the same way. In Fiume they landed, were handcuffed two and two, and marched through the streets to the prison. There the daughter and her 65-year-old mother, who had been also handcuffed, spent the night in a cell, with only two straw chairs. Next day they and all the other prisoners collected up to then were packed into third-class carriages, each compartment two soldiers, and in each compartment two prisoners, and smoking like chimneys. Although it was hot summer, all the windows were kept shut. In this way they were brought to Maribor, a journey of some four or five hours. At all times—but they took two days to eat. People came to the train selling things; but, as all their things had been taken away from them on the boat, they could get nothing. In Maribor they were put in the prison, and kept there for eight months.

Another lady in Salzerbad, the wife of a high Serbian officer, had been spending the summer in Abbazia, as she had been accustomed to do for years, and was well known. She had a little boy of 9 with her. One evening her boarding house was surrounded by gendarmes and detectives, she was arrested, and taken to Ljubach next day. There the gendarme made her and the boy walk with him up to the fortress—a long, hot, dusty walk where she was to be shut up. When he got there he was told he had brought her to the wrong place; he must take her to the prison, which was at the other end of the town, so another long, dusty walk. There she was taken to the prison, and her little boy was following her in, and the guard knocked him back, saying: "Children can't come here—let him go back where he came from!" But she pleaded so that they allowed him to stay. They were in that prison for three months, in a small, smelly cell, with a hole in the door, through which the guard looked every time he passed, and through which an electric light shone all night.

Thus many hardships were endured, and are still being endured. Many of the camps have slightly better arrangements than at first, but the punishments and hardships go on. The scarcity of food makes it so much worse now, for, of course, where there is little food, the poor prisoners are the last to be considered, and the bread, never good, gets worse and worse. When I left Austria, they were putting horse-chestnut and wood-meal in it! I have often known even wood-meal put in it! It is said to think of those poor wretches in the camps who have to rely on the rations. The English prisoners are kept going by English parcels; the French also receive things from home. But the poor others!

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"ASAHI BEER."





# THE NORTH SEA MINEFIELD.

## NAVY'S BOLD SCHEME TO FOIL THE SUBMARINE.

[BY ARCHIEALD HURD.]

The carefully-guarded secret is at last out. Official announcement is made of the establishment of a "prohibited area in the North Sea." dangerous to all shipping." Probably few persons in this country would read into the notice the significance which it really carries, but the Germans will realise its full meaning. It may be suggested that probably the unhappiest and most confused man in Germany at this moment is Admiral von Capelle, the Naval Secretary. The British Navy has thrust itself into the Cattegat, sinking fourteen auxiliary craft almost under the eyes of the Germans, and it has raided Ostend and Zeebrugge with amazing daring. And now he must learn from the official announcement published by the Admiralty that the northern exit from the North Sea is being, if not completely, at any rate partially, closed to him. The naval authorities could not keep any longer the secret of their intentions, because it has been necessary to give ample warning to merchant shipping.

What will the Germans conclude to be the facts from the Admiralty's announcement? In the first place, it is revealed to them that a new danger area will exist from May 15th and onwards, its base forming a line between Norway and Scotland, and its peak running northward within the Arctic Circle. In the second place, they are informed that this new measure has been adopted as a reply to their policy of piracy, and they will know that if the area is dangerous to merchant ships it will be also perilous to submarines, including mine-laying submarines. When the Germans read, as they are probably reading at this moment, the Admiralty announcement, they will utter one word "Mines," and will realise that from the 15th inst. the greatest minefield which has ever been laid will exist in the North Sea. The danger area embraces 121,782 square nautical miles!

### A WELL-KEPT SECRET.

The secret has been well kept, unless the enemy drew his own deductions from a series of articles which appeared in the *Scientific American* almost exactly a year ago. Those articles suggested that the writer had some inkling of the policy which the Admiralty were adopting. He pointed out that the heavy losses sustained by merchant ships showed that "there was something wrong" either with the means and instruments employed against them—the submarines—or in the general principle upon which the warfare is being conducted. "Now," he added, "there is nothing wrong with the instruments; they are ingenious and multi-form, and are being most energetically employed on a truly enormous scale." The Admiralty had, indeed, recently announced that nearly 3,000 small craft of various kinds were engaged in fighting the submarines. This American writer, the United States being then at war, then discussed the two broad policies which could be adopted.

"If this murderous piracy is to be wiped out we must adopt the opposite and obvious policy of blocking the submarine fleets at their point of exit and fighting them within their own waters. This may be done in two ways. We may institute a coast blockade by building continuous nets across the entrances to Zeebrugge, Wilhelmshaven, the Elbe, and the Baltic, or we may surrender the North Sea entirely to the German submarines and shut them within it by a wall of obstruction across the English Channel at Dover and across the North Sea from Scotland to Norway."

The latter suggestion was an obvious one, since nets, as the Admiralty confessed, had not proved a success. It had, indeed, already been made by me in *The Daily Telegraph* in general terms soon after the enemy inaugurated the submarine campaign against merchant shipping. It was, however, apparent that while it was an easy matter to suggest the establishment of "a wall of obstruction," the project represented a vast engineering undertaking, requiring an immense number of mines and other contrivances, the making of which would occupy much time. What was not known to the general public on this side of the Atlantic—and certainly not to the Germans—was that the scheme was already being worked out at the Admiralty under Lord Jellicoe's direction. That assumption points to no intimate knowledge of what the Admiralty were doing, but follows from the announcement which has now been made. The laying of a barrage of the character revealed by the Admiralty must have involved twelve or more months' labour, during which in many establishments mines were being turned out of the exact types required.

### IMPROVED BRITISH MINES.

It is no secret that when the war opened our mines left much to be desired. The story is told of a fisherman in the North Sea who lost his way in a fog, bumped into something which he took to be a buoy, lay by it throughout the night thinking himself to be in a position of safety, and only in the morning discovered that the friendly buoy was a British mine. The Germans, as well as other nationalities, are fully aware and have been for many months of the defective character of the comparatively few mines which we laid during the early months of hostilities. They are not unaware now that there has been a vast improvement in British mines since Lord Jellicoe became First Sea Lord. It has

been reported in naval circles that one of the first things that officer did on going to the Admiralty from the Grand Fleet, specifically, as was stated at the time, to fight the submarine, was to turn attention to the improvement of mines. The necessity for that action should not be regarded as involving a censure upon officers who had hitherto been responsible for British naval policy.

The Power which holds and uses the sea does not need many mines. Nelson always explained that he did not blockade the enemy in his ports or entertain any idea of preventing him from coming out, but merely waited off his ports in order to join issue at the earliest opportunity compatible with the tactics he intended to employ. The position of the Grand Fleet since the opening of the war has been the same. In the strict sense of the term, there has been no naval blockade of Germany, but, on the contrary, the Grand Fleet has been patiently waiting for the day of battle. But the advent of the submarine changed the conditions of naval warfare in one important respect: a vessel that can steam under water, and therefore out of sight, can evade the watching fleet. It was at once apparent to seamen who studied the matter that the most effective means of dealing with the menace was not merely to hunt the pirates on the trade routes, but to endeavour to prevent the submarines getting on to the trade routes. The best means, as every seaman realised, was to place reliance on mines laid so as to catch the submarine when stealing past the patrols in a submerged condition. It was one thing to come to that conclusion, but it was quite another to face the enormous task of creating a barrage across the northern exit of the North Sea. It must have involved careful thought in the preparation of plans and the giving out of orders for tens of thousands of mines. An area of 121,000 square miles! That speaks of mines in vast numbers.

Apparently the delivery of the mines has now enabled the Admiralty to establish the barrage. It would be improper to convey any information likely to be useful to the enemy as to the exact character of this new barrage, but the Germans read our reports of the Parliamentary debates, and a statement made by Sir Eric Geddes, the First Lord, in the House of Commons on March 5th may be recalled. He was dealing with the passage of submarines through the Straits of Dover, and he revealed in general terms the scheme elaborated by the War Staff during Lord Jellicoe's period of office as First Sea Lord. He stated that a new policy had been adopted:—

"A surface barrage has been maintained across the Channel in order to obstruct the passage of enemy submarines. By day and night this barrage is maintained, and at night the patrolling craft, which number over a hundred, burn flares, so that any submarine attempting the passage on the surface has a reasonable chance of getting entangled."

The First Lord said nothing more on this matter; but it is obvious that submarines would endeavour to avoid the surface craft by travelling submerged. What happens to them in the Straits of Dover when they try to slip through in this way may be matter for intelligent surmise. The full story would be revealed if by some means we could look down to the bottom of the Channel at the point where the barrage is maintained.

Whether the Admiralty are going to apply the same methods at the northern exit of the North Sea as have been adopted in the Straits of Dover will be matter on which the German Naval Staff will speculate. There can be little doubt as to the conclusion which they will reach.

### ADVENT OF THE SUBMARINE CRUISER.

The Admiralty notice suggests that when Lord Jellicoe made his famous August prophecy he was speaking with knowledge of future events. It was assumed in some quarters that this officer, who, so far as I can remember, has never boasted of what the Fleet would do, was extremely rash to speculate on the future. As to that, time will give its own verdict. Just as it has been known on this side of the North Sea for some months past that the Germans have been building submarine cruisers, they may now assume that the Admiralty has not been inactive in laying its plans for dealing with these new and heavily armed craft. When the Germans first boasted of what these vessels would do, I suggested that it increased size, though pointed by heavier gun power and a bigger torpedo equipment, might involve disadvantages. The presumption is that the larger the submarine which attempts to pass through such a danger area as that of which the Admiralty has given notice, the greater the peril of destruction. A chicken, as everyone familiar with a farmyard knows, can pass through an aperture too small for the mother hen. The same principle applies to the submarine. A small craft can often nose its way through the water in safety, but it suffers under the disadvantage that, having run the gauntlet, it has so little fuel that it can remain at sea only for a limited period. On the other hand, the large submarine has a far greater radius of action; but, whether travelling on the surface or submerged, it offers a bigger target, and incidentally takes longer to submerge. So the announcement of the establishment of the new "prohibited area" will give the Germans much food for thought.

### JUSTICE FOR THE NAVY.

One word more. No greater injustice can be done to naval officers in responsible positions than to take short views. The establishment of this mine barrage is a case in point. But because nothing could be revealed of the enormous enterprise which it had been decided to carry out, it was assumed in some quarters that the Admiralty was lethargic. That condemnation was strengthened by the

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

## THE KILLING POWER OF INFANTRY.

### IMPORTANT PART OF THE LEWIS GUN.

During the course of the present war improvements in the nature and quantity of artillery have brought about complete changes in the technique of battles, but while public attention has been much occupied with this aspect of the war the corresponding increase in what one may call the killing value of the infantry has passed almost unnoticed.

At the beginning of the war the infantry battalion represented one thousand rifles and bayonets and two machine-guns. These guns were battalion property, and were managed by the machine-gun section, a specialist unit recruited from the battalion itself. To-day the whole system has been changed.

The machine-gun power of a battalion added to its rifle power is to all intents and purposes doubled. If the calculation is made on the basis of a brigade which has a stock of special machine-guns—quite independent of the infantry—it works out that a brigade to-day can fire about three times as many bullets in the same time as a brigade of the 1914-15 period.

This has been brought about by the adoption of a light machine-gun—the Lewis—as an infantryman's arm. Properly speaking the Lewis is an automatic rifle rather than a machine-gun, and above all it is a single man's arm, for it can be carried and used by one man. The machine-guns proper are of three or four men, for the gun, its tripod and its stocks of ammunition weigh altogether about one hundred pounds.

### BURSTS OF FIRE.

Every soldier is taught how to handle and use the Lewis gun so that casualties can be immediately replaced in the field. It is not capable of long steady periods of fire, for being air cooled, it heats up very quickly. Its special use is for sudden, quick bursts of fire of thirty or forty shots. In an attack it is an ideal weapon for wiping out odd sections of enemy or knocking out hostile machine-guns, and as every infantry company has two or more of these Lewis guns, the fire power of an ordinary company is vastly augmented.

Apart from the fact that the Lewis guns enable one man to fire as many shots as twenty men, the terrific speed of fire is more valuable in another way. During an enemy attack groups of men may only be in sight for a minute or two. An officer directing the fire control of a company of riflemen might not have time to get the whole of his men firing at this special target at the proper range before it had got under cover again, but only the Lewis guns' it means that only two or three men have to alter their sights and come into action on a fresh target. Very little time is lost, and the enemy are under a hail of fire long before they reach the next bit of cover.

The enemy admits that during the recent fighting many of his casualties were from rifle bullets—a phase which also includes machine-gun fire, for all machine-guns take the ordinary cartridge used in the rifle. Practically speaking, he has run up against a wall of bullets infinitely thicker than even the wonderful rapid fire musketry of the old Army of 1914. Add to this the supplementary weapons of bomb and rifle grenade, both of which have been used in the open fighting whenever the ranges were close enough, and it will be realised that the infantryman of 1918 has more fire power than was thought possible before the new weapons came in.

All these factors go towards the general aim of the Army, which is to kill and wound as many Germans as possible. Day by day a steady retail slaughter by bomb and shell and long-range fire goes on, and whenever close action or battle fighting takes place, the killing becomes wholesale, owing to the terrific fire power of modern infantry.

enemy's retention of his hold on the Belgian coast. "Why doesn't the Navy go in to Ostend and Zeebrugge?" That question was frequently asked by persons who were unaware that these two ports had been as strongly defended by the enemy as any ports in the world, over 150 guns being placed on the coastline between Ostend and Zeebrugge. Only students of naval history were aware that a combined operation of seamen and soldiers was necessary to turn the enemy out of these ports, as was illustrated at Weihaiwei, Santiago, and Port Arthur. It must be assumed that there were reasons, good or bad, of which we shall learn in due course, why a conjoint operation was not carried out. After the Russian collapse the possibility of military assistance disappeared, as the later course of events in France has reminded us. The full effects of the Russian Revolution were not felt until July last. Apparently about that time the Navy began to think what it could do on its own account unsupported. What plans Admiral Bacon may have concerted with the Admiralty will no doubt be revealed in due course when the war is over, but it is already apparent that the recent raids were not undertaken without many months of elaborate preparation.

This war has shown that naval officers do not compete with each other for popular applause, but rather shrink from it. That is the Navy's way. It is silent. On the other hand, the nation and those who profess to interpret its views, owe a duty to the service. In the first place, it should never be forgotten that practically every operation is the result of long thought and arduous preparation. In the second place, warfare by sea waits on many elements—necessary material, state of the sea, condition of the tide, and the direction of the wind. Operations may also be delayed, or hastened, by the action of the enemy.

## GERMANS AND NATIVES.

### ATROCIOUS CONDUCT IN THE CAMEROONS.

The conduct of the Germans towards Natives during the Cameroons campaign was barbarous in the extreme, and more in keeping with the traditions of some savage tribe than the customs of a great European Power. The evidence collected from Natives by the French and British during their advance, and in many instances corroborated by photographs, shows that the Germans indulged in wholesale bloodshed, accompanied by deeds of the most callous cruelty. The following are but a few instances of their methods.

A native named Andreas Jengelli, who had fled from the Germans at Mbonjo, made the following report to Captain Gwynne Howell, of the British General Staff at Duala:—"There are about ten Germans with 100 native soldiers in Mbonjo. They are shooting natives and burning the countryside. They have killed about 30 native men and women, they say that the British may conquer the country, but they will find no inhabitants left." This threat, so typical of the modern German, our enemy did his best to make good, with the result that the native ran into bush whenever German troops approached but sought protection from the British and French, whom they recognised as friends.

General Dobell, who was in command of the Allied Forces, makes the following comment upon the conduct of the Germans:—"On some occasions it is said that no Europeans were present during the enactment of the brutalities described, but sufficient evidence is here available to show that German Europeans encouraged such acts by personally cutting the throats of wounded British soldiers with knives, firing on peaceful inhabitants to terrorize them, and shooting natives without trial. In such circumstances as these it is extremely difficult to obtain the names of the natives, as a rule, do not know, or take an interest in, the names of the Europeans whom they see on these occasions." In this connection Mr. K. V. Elphinstone, M.A., of the Nigerian Civil Government, Chief Political Officer with British Forces with the Cameroons, writes:—"It should be borne in mind that the civilians killed by the Germans are the natives of a country under their protection, whom they had ruled for many years, the murders were not committed by an invading army, in fact, owing to the treatment meted out. It was to the invading army the wretched natives fled for protection, very soon summed up the difference of treatment by the Germans and the Allied Forces."

The headman of Bowelele, reported "Some people came running into my town from Ngori, shouting that a white man had killed two men. All the people began to run away, I remained in my house looking out, I saw some German soldiers come, they came up to about 50 yards. I then saw a white man coming on a horse behind, I know him, his name is Meinhardt. He shouted in German for the headman: 'I got out of the window and hid in the bush. During the night I saw the houses burning and I heard shots when I first ran out. Next morning I went to Banaberi and reported to the Officer. I went back to the village the same day, then I found a great many houses burnt. We found Lobe Penda still alive, shot in the right upper arm (he died the same day when we were taking him to Banaberi). We found Ndia Njanga with his throat cut; he had been tied by the body, arms, and forehead to a plantain. We found Ekwa Wanga shot dead outside his burnt house. Holo Soko was shot in the foot, he is alive now."

Elong Ntoko, of Bonberi Ba Suss, reported:—"Bony, a Malimba man, came and told us all to go to Sura, as the Germans were coming. We started away at once. Before we got away we saw many German soldiers coming, began firing at us. We all ran away. We came to Sura railway station and lay down behind the English troops. The Germans came, but were driven off. In the evening I went out and found the body of my brother behind a house in the village. He had been shot in the back."

This is the experience of Ngolo Ngeki, of Kake. "It happened when there was a big fight at Sura. I was living at Sura, I went with my brother to Kake to get food. We had got inside Kake by my brother's house. He was picking plantains, I was quite close, suddenly he called out, 'Ngolo I am caught!' I saw two German soldiers kill him with a bayonet. I ran away to Sura, the English came out, and fought the Germans at Kake. I buried my brother the same day as the Germans ran away."

Captain M. J. Parker, Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, was wounded in action and taken prisoner by the Germans. When he recovered consciousness he found a German native soldier pulling his broken leg, three others pointing their rifles within a few inches of his face, while another held a bayonet over his left shoulder, and a sixth stripped him of his equipment. A European then approached, and drawing a small operating knife about six inches long said: "Do you want to live or die? It is quite easy to relieve people's sufferings with this." Captain Parker said he had only a broken leg and did not wish to die. One of the soldiers then addressed the European, saying: "Why do you not kill this white man? You killed the other white men."

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

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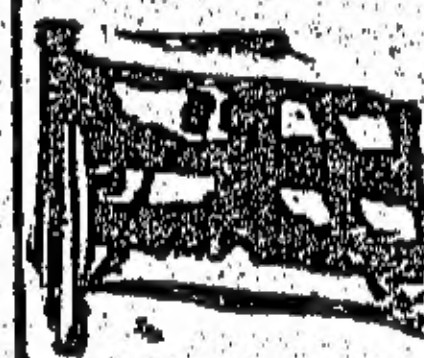
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TAKAO via SWATOW and AMOY.

"BOSHU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 18th July, at 8 A.M.

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